GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4879
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2002
IMPORT OF WOOD LOGS
PRABHA RAU

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

:

(a) whether a large quantity of wood logs are being imported by India;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from where these wood logs are being imported;

(c) the quantity thereof during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether many countries, importing the wood logs, allow a zero custom duty;

(e) whether the Indian timber importers have requested for the rationalization of customs duty on imported wood logs;

(f) the existing rate of customs duty and the one demanded by importers; and

(g) the reaction of the Government to the demand for rationalization of duty on the import of wood logs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (c) : The details of country-wise data on import of log woods as made by India are contained in the publication `Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India: Volume-II (Imports) Annual Number` published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which is available in the library of the Parliament.

(d) to (g) : The present customs duty on wood logs is 5% basic customs duty and 4% Special Additional Duty(SAD). The rates of customs duty as applicable in the case of other countries varies from zero and upwards. In a Pre-Budget, 2003-2004 Memorandum submitted to the Government by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), withdrawal of the 4% SAD applicable on wood logs in case of wood based industry has been suggested. The said request will be examined as a part of the Budget 2003-2004 deliberations by the Government.